

**RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Notice**  
**Thursday, December 10, 2020, 5:30 pm**

Via Remote Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/99874146042?pwd=ZHdLVi9QOXR3REVmWXVKLzNPaTRnUT09>

Meeting ID: 998 7414 6042

Passcode: 497675

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory Notice:** In compliance with local and state shelter-in-place orders, and as allowed by Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), the Agency will not offer an in-person meeting location for the public to attend this meeting. Members of the public may offer public comment remotely from a safe location as described below. Members of the Board of Directors or staff may participate in this meeting electronically or via teleconference.

**How to participate remotely:** Comments may be emailed to [chavel@marincounty.org](mailto:chavel@marincounty.org) in advance of the meeting; please write "Public Comment" in the subject line. Comments submitted at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting will be forwarded to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting start. Those received after this time will be shared with the Board members after the meeting.

The meeting will be available to the public through Zoom video conference. Those who do not have access to Zoom may access the meeting by calling one of the toll-free phone numbers below.

The Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: RBRA Board of Directors September 10, 2020

Time: September 10, 2020 05:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99874146042?pwd=ZHdLVi9QOXR3REVmWXVKLzNPaTRnUT09>

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One tap mobile: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac2VgLRyi>

The RBRA encourages that comments be submitted in advance of the meeting. Those members of the public using the Zoom video conference function who wish to comment on an agenda item for public comment may write "I wish to comment" in the chat section of the remote meeting platform, or click on "raise hand" when that item is underway. Those members of the public attending by telephone who wish to comment should press \*9 on their keypad. The Clerk will unmute the speakers one at a time at the appropriate time for public comment.

Any member of the public who needs special accommodations in advance of the public meeting to attend may email the Agency at [chavel@marincounty.org](mailto:chavel@marincounty.org), or phone (415) 971-3919, and we will use our best efforts to provide assistance. If assistance is needed during the meeting, you may email [chavel@marincounty.org](mailto:chavel@marincounty.org), and best efforts will be made to provide such assistance.

**RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, December 10, 2020**

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Meeting ID: 998 7414 6042

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PUBLIC COMMENT IS INVITED CONCERNING EACH AGENDIZED ITEM PURSUANT TO THE BROWN ACT.

PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO THREE (3) MINUTES.

Please see above meeting notice information about options to comment remotely in advance, during the meeting via Zoom by writing "I wish to comment" in the chat feature, or via phone by typing \*9 to raise your hand. You will be recognized to speak at the appropriate time during the agenda items.

**5:30 PM: CALL TO ORDER IN REMOTE OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Call to order and roll call.
- 2) Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda reflects those agenda items with prior policy approval from the Board and/or are administrative matters. Unless any item is specifically removed by a member of the Board, staff, or public in attendance, the Consent Agenda will be adopted by one motion.
  - a) Approve minutes of October 8, 2020.
  - b) Approve Resolution 09-20 accepting \$400,000 from the State of California Division of Boating and Waterways Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) Program.
  - c) Approve Resolutions 10-20 (SAVE Funding) and 11-20 (CPS Contract Funding) for fiscal year 2020-21 budget adjustments accepting additional funds and authorizing an associated increase in revenue and expense appropriations.
- 3) Information Item: Presentation on Community Efforts.
- 4) Salt Work Canal Channel Marker Replacement and Strawberry Dredging Project. Staff Recommendation: accept report and provide direction to staff.
- 5) Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan progress report. Staff recommendation: accept report and provide direction to staff.
- 6) Open time for public expression. Members of the public are welcome to address the Board for up to three minutes per speaker on matters not on the agenda. Under the state Brown Act, Board members may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally only may listen.
- 7) Reports/comments: a) Staff updates; b) Board Member matters.
- 8) Adjourn.

*AN AGENDA PACKET IS AVAILABLE AT THE RBRA WEBSITE <http://rbra.ca.gov> and at the  
Marin County Community Development Agency, 3501 Civic Center Dr. Room 308, San Rafael, CA 94903  
(415) 971-3919 [chavel@marincounty.org](mailto:chavel@marincounty.org)*

# **RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2020**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

## **5:30 PM: CONVENE IN REMOTE OPEN SESSION**

### **1. Call to order and roll call.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Wickham, Chair (Mill Valley), Kathrin Sears (Marin County), Claire McAuliffe (Belvedere); David Kulik (Tiburon)

**STAFF:** Curtis Havel, Harbormaster

### **2. Consent Agenda.**

a) Approve minutes of September 10, 2020.

b) Approve Resolution No. 08-20 accepting \$46,634 from the State of California Division of Boating & Waterways Boating Safety and Enforcement Equipment Grant Program.

M/S, McAuliffe/Sears, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Information Item: Presentation on Community Efforts.**

There were no updates.

### **4. Presentation of the stakeholder engagement plan for the Richardson's Bay Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan by Rebecca Schwartz-Lesberg, Coastal Policy Solutions.**

Harbormaster Havel introduced Rebecca Schwartz-Lesberg of Coastal Policy Solutions, who is leading the drafting of eelgrass management planning for Richardson's Bay. Ms. Schwartz-Lesberg made a presentation about the scope of work that reflected the direction in RBRA's Transition Plan, the engagement of stakeholders, and drafting of potential measures to protect and preserve eelgrass, which will be presented at an upcoming meeting for public comment and Board direction.

The following persons who identified as follows commented on the item: Robbie Powelson, Jeff Jacobs, Doug Storms, Anon, Barbara Salzman, Eva Persante, Denise Dresser, Melanie, Ann Libbin, and Elias.

Comments summary: Concerns about boats being taken by Curtis; stakeholder engagement shouldn't be tokenized; environmentalism by violence is not balanced; very important to do deep work; there are stories of violence and boat taking by the harbormaster; 100 people have refused to enroll with RBRA; objected to criminal activity being grounds for removal from anchorage; the harbormaster does not have the right to say who stays and who goes; impressed with Ms. Schwartz-Lesberg's credentials; there hasn't been enough time to discuss the issues; many people live with eelgrass on a daily cycle; as said in the Merkel study, community input is critical; encouraged working with the mariners; want to see scientific evidence of eelgrass

destruction by boats and metrics on the decline of bird and fish population; how much damage is from municipal sewage; hope Rebecca is sincere about going out on the bay; people on the bay pay taxes and come from all over the world for the nostalgic history of Richardson's Bay; look forward to participating in discussion about the eelgrass; support BCDC's position that anchorouts should be gone in five years; want the reports from the eelgrass planning work to be available to the public; hope everyone will recognize how important the mariners will be in this work and hope to maintain more awareness from environmental organizations like the Audubon Society; hypocritical to live in a \$2 million house and expect anchorouts to leave; long history of using environmentalism against poor people and hope environmental community can reassess their position; if Audubon is so set on removing anchorouts, need to carve out housing for them; what consideration will be given to the role of eelgrass in carbon sequestration particularly with respect to climate and fire; RBRA must and shall submit to constitutional law; RBRA encroaches upon civil rights, must stop tyranny of posting during shelter in place ordinances; inhabitants do not believe these demands are illegal or inappropriate; how will there be input from sailors not permanently anchored on the bay but who in the future might be interested in the transit use that's permitted under the RBRA rules; concerned about lack of an equity lens in the presentation; people are having their humanity questioned, being put out of their homes out of something that's easily resolved, not hearing about eelgrass friendly moorings, not hearing about Audubon using their resources to celebrate the lives of people who live in harmony with nature, see people in tears because their houses are being destroyed, can't reconcile that with saving a few acres of eelgrass; there's children and mothers out there, people taking care of other folks, if you take their boats away they will be homeless.

Ms. Schwartz-Lesberg addressed issues and questions raised including concerns about tokenization, providing reports about eelgrass damage, will look at alternative anchoring and mooring techniques to minimize damage, sewage spills are a problem and when they are identified legal action is taken; everything produced in the study will be available; not going to be doing an evaluation on climate sequestration in the bay but there are other studies that address that question in general; open to capture info from sailors; and that some of the other issues raised pertained to other aspects of RBRA.

Chair Wickham said that intimidation of RBRA staff was not acceptable and will not deter the agency from its path. The harbormaster is doing his job to carry out the Board's enforcement priorities. If the public takes issue with actions, the way to express opposition or concern is at the Board meetings or by writing to the Board, and that he supported the work the harbormaster is doing.

#### **5. Open time for public expression.**

Douglas Storms: Made great progress with coffees, been difficult time for communication during pandemic, spoke with Board last month, there is legal action being taken by mariners because they feel their rights are being violated, three legal actions. There's no public place to meet, to charge up your phone, so during this time that enforcement is being taken, the very population that's being targeted have their hands tied behind their backs, there has been no budging in discussions with Curtis; prioritizing boats for loss of life should be the priority.

Jeff Jacobs: Forces are paying salaries in a concerted effort to intimidate a community formed long before you were born; you promised not to target boats during pandemic; Hailey's boat taken; fighting with lawsuits. That you are well-funded and being paid, the carbon you generate, to use environmentalism against poor people – you should be ashamed; using environmentalism and eelgrass to destroy a community; don't just be concerned about money.

Robbie Powelson: RBRA is manipulating the Harbors & Navigation code to do this campaign; doesn't RBRA's code say ten days are needed, boat was destroyed immediately; there are specific issues that define marine debris; willing to continue this fight because RBRA is breaking the law; when he took Hailey's boat he broke a promise.

Brian Doris: David Bone died and his wife was living on the boat and 48 hours later it was crushed.

Rebekah, Fairfax resident: Equity is part of sustainability; people were driven out of other places. Conditions of our country make so many people homeless; these people are being punished, it's not their fault. Unfathomable, what is the rush and also what is the concern about eelgrass during COVID. Embarrassed about this happening, what about as we get further and further burned out, don't understand why I'm hearing stories of cruelty.

Melanie M: This legacy community is special and should be preserved; know there is addiction, trauma; been here since March, am a nonviolent pacifist. There are certain things that should happen for us to become a legacy community. We registered with the census. This is the last hippie independent community that's around anymore, we would be a great tourist attraction.

Eva: Crushing fiberglass boats is bad for air quality; if boats are crushed, people will be at greater risk of getting COVID. Tried to impress upon Curtis without permanent affordable housing, anchorouts are vulnerable. The last thing we want to do is take people out of the one place they can self-isolate. Asked Marin Audubon to look at their position.

Elias: Appreciation to anchorouts who spoke to the community under such dire circumstances. Appalled by the support for destroying peoples' houses. Heartbroken to see an organization that could be working for good be such a negative force in our community. This will have huge effects; what about the young children who will learn about this and not feel comfortable working with nature organizations because of their relationship with poor people; forced migration perpetuated by environmentalism; John Audubon was a white supremacist and slaveholder, they have a history of engaging in bad behavior, don't need to be supporting the eviction of people from their houses; they recently had a meeting on intersectionality, which is hypocrisy when homes are being taken during a pandemic.

Denise Dresser: Asked if there police reports taken about violence.

Barbara Salzman: Remind folks that we've been involved in this issue, waiting to have the bay better protected and cleared since the Richardson's Bay Special Area Plan was adopted; as of a couple of years ago, was the first one to urge the Board to get some social welfare help for people on the bay. Some people are in need of help, and some do not need to live there; we fully support all the things you are doing to move people off the water, it's not a safe place to live. Our

goals and purposes are environmental and we understand help is needed for the people who live out there,

**6. Reports/comments:**

a) Staff updates: Interviews are scheduled for the Assistant Harbormaster position; expect it to be filled in November.

b) Board Members: Chair Wickham noted that the Board is hearing what people are saying.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

# **RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY (RBRA)**

## **STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of December 10, 2020

**To:** RBRA Board of Directors

**From:** Curtis Havel, Harbormaster

**Subject:** Resolution 09-20 - Accepting Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) funds from the State of California Division of Boating and Waterways

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Resolution No. 09-20 approving acceptance of \$400,000 from the SAVE 2020 grant program.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The RBRA applied for and is eligible for \$400,000 in funding from the California Division of Boating and Waterways for use in the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) 2020 Program for use through September 2022. Resolution 09-20 is the formal acceptance of these funds.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The SAVE funding process has been employed successfully over the years by RBRA and is expected to proceed as in years past. RBRA has been able to meet the 10% matching fund requirement through in-kind contributions and has always spent down its allotted funding within the timeframes set by the State.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The \$400,000 funding this year is \$150,000 – or 60% - more than last year's allocation of \$250,000 and exceeds the \$250,000 programmed in the 2020-21 budget. A resolution amending the budget accordingly will be placed on an upcoming Board agenda.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

Upon Board approval, staff will finalize the steps to receive the funds and utilize them for their intended purposes.

### **Attach:**

Draft Resolution No. 09-20

# RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

## RESOLUTION NUMBER 09-20

OF THE RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, DIVISION OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS, FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000 TO BE USED FOR THE SURRENDERED AND ABANDONED VESSEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange program (SAVE) has been an integral part of the efforts of the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) to reduce the number of abandoned boats on Richardson's Bay since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the State Division of Boating and Waterways has accepted RBRA's application for \$400,000, available for use in this program, requiring a 10% matching contribution from the RBRA; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be available with a term from the date fully executed through September 30, 2022,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency by adoption of this resolution hereby accepts Grant Contract # C20S0614 in the amount of \$400,000 from the State Division of Boating and Waterways and authorizes the RBRA Harbormaster (Curtis Havel) or his designee to execute the agreement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency on December 10, 2020.

CERTIFICATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Wickham  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest:  
Curtis Havel, Harbormaster

# **RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY (RBRA) STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of: December 10, 2020

**To:** RBRA Board of Directors

**From:** Curtis Havel, Harbormaster

**Subject:** Fiscal year 2020-21 Budget Amendment Resolutions accepting additional funds and authorizing an associated increase in revenue and expense appropriations

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve Resolution No. 10-20 accepting from the State Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways additional SAVE 20 grant award funds of \$150,000 to be used for RBRA's surrendered and abandoned vessel exchange program (SAVE); and authorizing in fiscal year 2020-21 an associated increase in revenue and expense appropriations of the \$150,000 from the grant.
2. Approve Resolution No. 11-20 accepting \$15,000 from the County of Marin towards contract services with Coastal Policy Solutions for development of eelgrass restoration and protection initiatives and preparation of grant applications, and authorizing in fiscal year 2020-21 an associated increase in revenue and expense appropriations of the \$15,000 from the County.

## **BACKGROUND:**

### Resolution No. 10-20

The State Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), annually allocates funds to agencies to assist in the removal of vessels that have been surrendered by their owners or otherwise marine debris or abandoned, in what is called the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange Program (SAVE).

Staff has been notified that RBRA will receive \$400,000 in SAVE 20 funds, which is \$150,000 more than RBRA had programmed in its adopted fiscal year 2020-21 budget. The Resolution now before the Board authorizes an increase of \$150,000 in revenue and expense appropriation in the fiscal year 2020-21 budget to reflect the full amount of the SAVE 20 grant award.

### Resolution No. 11-20

The Transition Plan adopted by the Board on June 11, 2020 provided direction to develop eelgrass restoration and protection initiatives to improve bay habitat, and to seek funding to support such efforts. RBRA retained the services of Coastal Policy

Solutions to launch the development of protection and restoration initiatives and to seek grant funding. The scope of services includes drafting the proposed creation of designated areas within Richardson's Bay that delineate allowable uses, eelgrass protection measures, and other requirements or approaches; this work includes facilitating discussions with stakeholders and presenting those findings, and subsequently drafting, presenting, and finalizing an eelgrass protection and management plan. The services also include preparing applications for three grant programs.

The County of Marin offered a \$15,000 contribution to help RBRA to launch the eelgrass and grant application work. Resolution No. 10-20 authorizes accepting the contribution and amending RBRA's 2020-21 budget to reflect the contribution revenue and expense. Funding for the remaining \$15,000 cost is available in the 2020-21 RBRA budget in program savings.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Approval of the resolutions allows RBRA to accept and expend additional revenue consistent with its mission and Transition Plan.

Attachments:

Draft Resolution No. 10-20

Draft Resolution No. 11-20

# RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

## RESOLUTION NUMBER 10-20

OF THE RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN ITS FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET OF \$150,000 IN REVENUE AND EXPENSE APPROPRIATION, FROM RECEIPT OF AN ADDITIONAL \$150,000 OVER THE BUDGETED AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FROM THE STATE DIVISION OF BOATING & WATERWAYS SURRENDERED VESSEL AND EXCHANGE (SAVE) 20 PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange program (SAVE) has been an integral part of the efforts of the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency ("Agency") to reduce the number of abandoned boats since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the State Division of Boating and Waterways has awarded the full requested grant amount of \$400,000 in its SAVE 20 program, which is \$150,000 more than the \$250,000 budgeted by the Agency for use from this program in fiscal year 2020-21 budget,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency by adoption of this resolution hereby authorizes in its fiscal year 2020-21 budget an increase of an additional \$150,000 in revenue and expense appropriations for that portion of the SAVE 20 grant funds accepted by the Agency but not programmed in its 2020-21 budget.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency on December 10, 2020.

CERTIFICATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Wickham, Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curtis Havel, Harbormaster

# RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

## RESOLUTION NUMBER 11-20

OF THE RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY ACCEPTING \$15,000 FROM THE COUNTY OF MARIN, AND AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN ITS FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET OF \$15,000 IN REVENUE AND EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS, FOR PURPOSES OF FUNDING CONTRACT SERVICES TO DEVELOP AND SEEK FUNDING FOR EELGRASS RESTORATION AND PROTECTION INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2020 the Board of Directors of the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency ("Agency") adopted a Transition Plan with direction to develop eelgrass protection and restoration initiatives and to seek funding support; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has contracted with Coastal Policy Solutions to develop an eelgrass protection and management plan and to prepare grant funding applications; and

WHEREAS, the County of Marin offered to contribute \$15,000 to help launch the contracted work to protect eelgrass and habitat of Richardson's Bay,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Agency accepts the receipt of a \$15,000 contribution from the County of Marin, and authorizes in its fiscal year 2020-21 budget an increase of \$15,000 in revenue and expense appropriations for purposes of helping to fund a contract with Coastal Policy Solutions to develop and seek funding for eelgrass restoration and protection initiatives.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency on December 10, 2020.

CERTIFICATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Wickham, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curtis Havel, Harbormaster

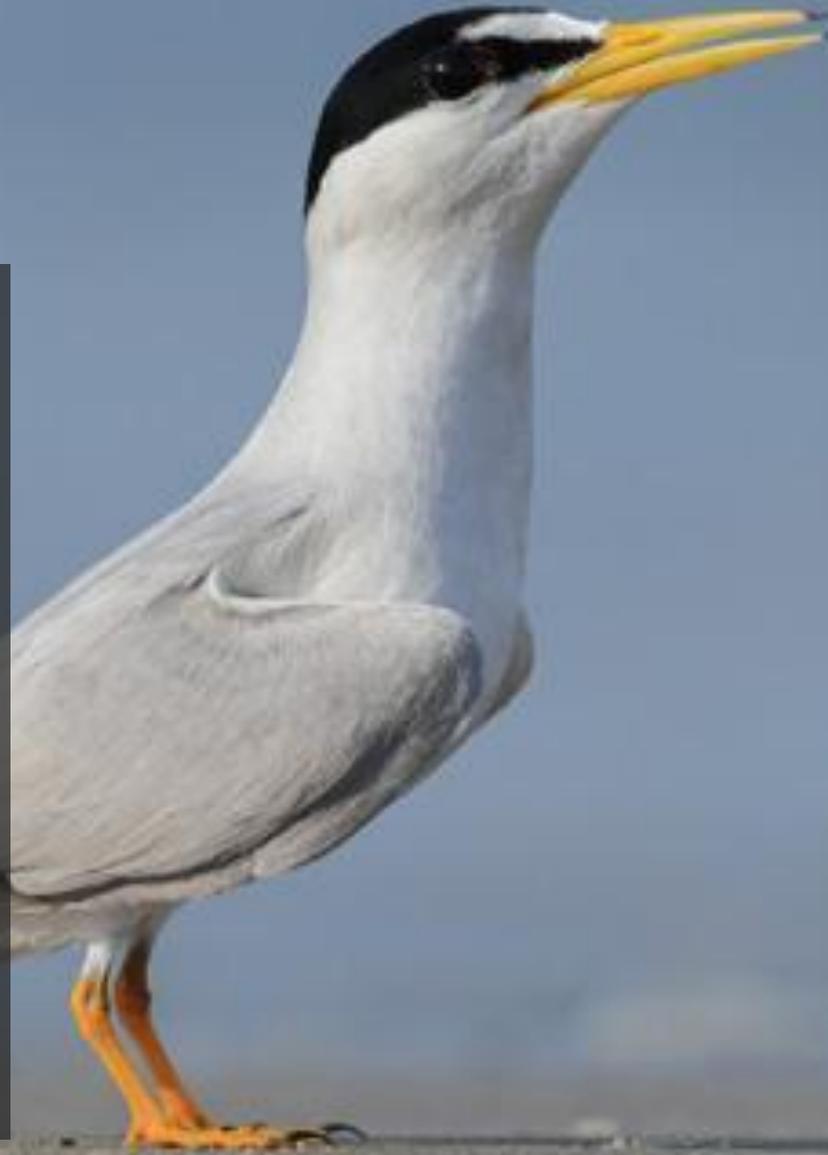
herring  
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data years  
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about change areas zone RB people  
special survey happen restoration moorings  
more boats all anchoring term anchorage  
threat RBRA fail sea removal needs area over  
need keep enforcement many said conversation  
long one due less land important some  
threats yes eelgrass intertidal existing  
culture public bay runoff use state best income just ecological  
zones key level criteria support like impact still  
climate anchor-outs Question dredging mooring  
make field better accommodated funding  
impacts death wants SF recreational water  
other Low community access  
map final habitat capacity vessels  
plan right surveys management  
quality protect concerns Belvedere

# Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA): Eelgrass Protection & Management Plan (EPMP)

## Preliminary Stakeholder Feedback Report

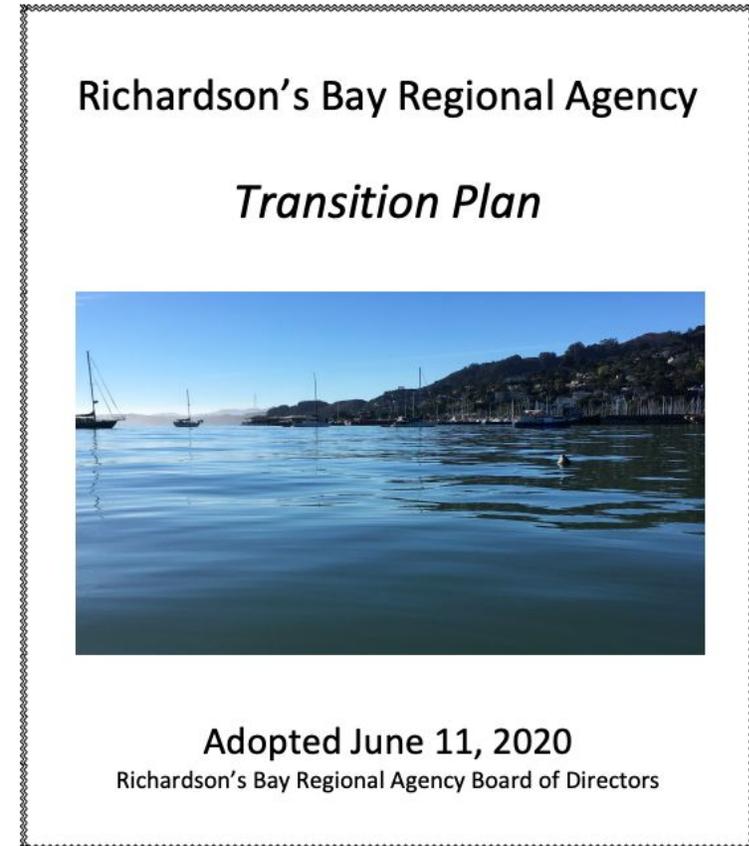
## Outline:

- **What is the EPMP? Why are we doing it?**
- **Stakeholder Engagement So Far**
  - Who has engaged
  - Materials presented during listening sessions
- **Summary of Feedback**
  - Threats
  - Uses
  - Other major takeaways
- **Next steps – direction needed from RBRA Board**



# What is the EPMP? Why are we doing it?

- RBRA June 2020 Transition Plan, Policy Direction #5:
  - “...develop eelgrass protection measures and consider specific eelgrass restoration funding and projects”
  - “The potential designation of up to four zones in RB for varying levels of vessel usage and eelgrass restoration and protection”
- Stakeholder engagement, policy review, spatial planning



# Stakeholder Engagement So Far

- Targets:
  - Environmental groups, scientists, elected officials, marina operators, resource/regulatory agencies, Richardson’s Bay mariners
- Five 1.5 hour listening sessions
- 40+ people engaged; representing 20+ organizations

Organizations Represented		
Audubon CA	Marin Audubon Society	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bay Conservation and Development Commission	Marin Conservation League	San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Belvedere City Council	County of Marin	San Francisco State University - Estuary and Ocean Science Center
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Marina Plaza Harbor	Sausalito Yacht Harbor
California State Coastal Conservancy	Merkel and Associates	US Army Corps of Engineers
City of Sausalito	NOAA Fisheries	Waldo Point Harbor
Galilee Harbor	Pew Charitable Trust	

# Materials Presented During Listening Sessions

## Agenda:

- **Welcome/get settled**
- **Introductions - 10 min**
- **Overview of EPMP – 15 min**
- **Listening session Q1**
- **Listening session Q2**
- **Listening session Q3**
- **Wrap up**



### Meeting Goals:

- Receive early input for stakeholders on the development of the RBRA's EPMP
- Identify factors, opportunities, and/or constraints to consider when developing the EPMP.
- Identify resources to use/draw from in developing the EPMP.

# Introductions:

- Name
- Organizational affiliation
- Brief (1-2 minute) description of relevant experience

# Overview of EPMP:

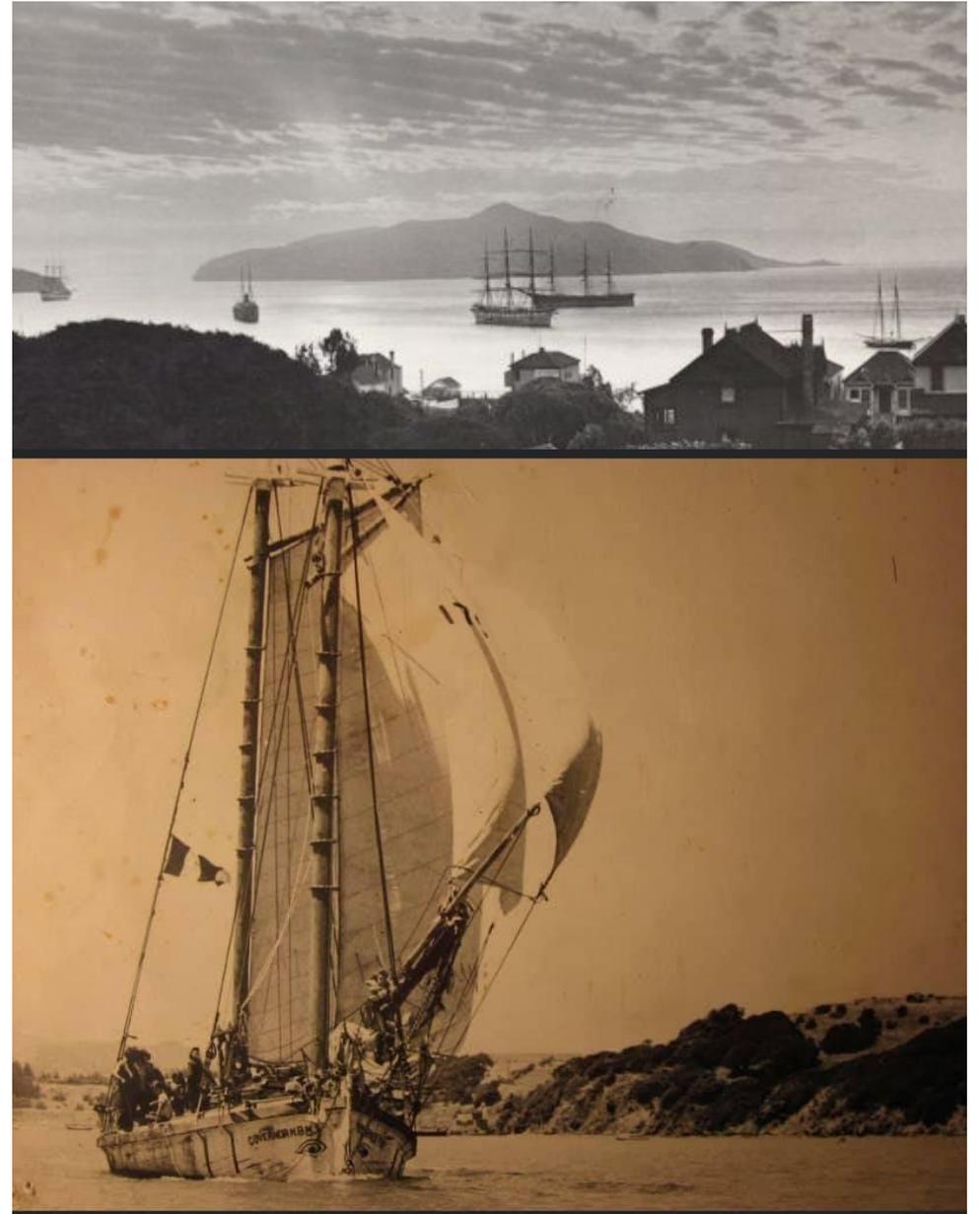
- Importance of eelgrass, especially in RB
- Existing policy direction in Transition Plan

### **Eelgrass in Richardson's Bay:**

- **Seagrass, flowering plant**
- **Shallow water bays and estuaries**
- **Habitat for baby fish, Dungeness crab, food for birds**
- **Spawning habitat for herring**
- **Last commercial fishery in SFB**
- **Reduces erosion, stabilizes shoreline, sequesters carbon, reduces ocean acidification**

### Eelgrass in Richardson's Bay:

- Boats anchoring in RB since at least 1890s
- Shallow, protected embayment
- Low number of well maintained boats
  - presumably modest eelgrass damage
- Eelgrass decline regionally + increase in boats + marine debris = problems for eelgrass and the species it supports



## **Eelgrass in Richardson's Bay:**

- **Second largest bed in SF, variable in size (~300-800 acres)**
- **Ongoing damage: Up to 80 acres removed due to anchor scour or “crop circles”<sup>1</sup>, approx. 2x size of Alcatraz Island**
- **Need to manage eelgrass resources within the anchorage to meet regional (Bay Conservation and Development Commission) and statewide (CA Ocean Protection Council, CA State Coastal Conservancy) eelgrass regulations and restoration targets**

<sup>1</sup>Kelly, J. J., Orr, D., & Takekawa, J. Y. (2019). Quantification of damage to eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds and evidence-based management strategies for boats anchoring in San Francisco Bay. *Environmental management*, 64(1), 22-36

## Policy Direction from Transition Plan re Eelgrass:

- **Policy Direction 5: “Working with agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders, develop eelgrass protection measures and consider specific eelgrass restoration funding and projects”**

## Richardson’s Bay Regional Agency

### *Transition Plan*



**Adopted June 11, 2020**

Richardson’s Bay Regional Agency Board of Directors

***Policy Direction 5:***

***1. The potential designation of up to four zones in RB for varying levels of vessel usage and eelgrass restoration and protection***

- **Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan**
- **Marine spatial planning to ID locations for allowable uses (e.g., 72-hour and 30-day anchoring, recreational boating, kayaking)**

**Richardson's Bay Regional Agency**

***Transition Plan***



**Adopted June 11, 2020**

**Richardson's Bay Regional Agency Board of Directors**

Policy Direction  
from RBRA  
Transition Plan:

“Designation of  
up to four zones  
in Richardson’s  
Bay for varying  
levels of vessel  
usage and  
eelgrass  
restoration and  
protection.”

1: Eelgrass  
Restoration Zone:  
- No anchoring/  
mooring  
- From Audubon  
sanctuary in N, S  
to Bay Model, not  
incl. deeper  
water off Belv.



2: Eelgrass  
Protection Zone:  
- Only existing  
occupied vessels  
(i.e., “Legacy  
Anchor Outs”)  
- Rules re  
changing/ moving  
ground tackle.  
- From ERZ south  
to Turney St

3: Anchoring  
Zone: Visiting  
and/or cruising  
vessels allowed  
to anchor and/or  
moor in  
accordance with  
time rules.

## **Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan Development:**

- **2019 Mooring Feasibility Study – eelgrass bathymetry, eelgrass frequency distribution, anchoring/mooring distribution, wave modeling**
- **State/federal guidance (e.g., California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy, Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan, Subtidal Habitat Goals Report)**
- **Stakeholder engagement**

## Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan Development – Stakeholder Engagement

- **3-5 Listening sessions via Zoom**
  - 5-10 participants, 1.5 hour
  - Targeted audiences (agency, scientists, environmentalists), tailored questions
- **2-4 Drawing Sessions – Outdoor, socially distanced, tech free**
  - Open attendance
  - Tap into mariner knowledge
  - Time, day, location TBD; will be posted to RBRA website and shared via social media



### Listening Session Question 1:

- What are the key threats facing Richardson's Bay that should be considered when developing the EPMP and how can we best consider them?



## Listening Session Question 2:

- What are the key uses of Richardson's Bay that should be accommodated for in the EPMP? Are there particular places in the Bay where they should/should not occur?



### Listening Session Question 3:

- When thinking about the development of an EPMP for Richardson's Bay, do any final concerns come to mind? (For example, "If RBRA doesn't get X right, this effort will not likely succeed.")

# Summary of Feedback

herring  
Transition  
data years  
uses  
about change areas zone RB people  
special survey happen restoration moorings  
more boats all anchoring term anchorage  
threat RBRA fail sea removal needs area over  
need keep enforcement many said conversation  
long one due less land important some  
threats yes eelgrass intertidal existing  
culture public bay runoff use state best income just ecological  
zones key level criteria support like impact still  
climate anchor-outs Question dredging mooring  
make field better accommodated funding  
impacts death wants SF recreational water  
other Low community access  
map final habitat capacity vessels  
plan right surveys management  
quality protect concerns Belvedere

# Summary of Feedback – Missing Voices

- Nobody from the mariner community participated in listening sessions
- COVID limited in-person outreach
- Few available email addresses
- Limited support from mariner community in getting the word out – see next slide



# Targeted Outreach to Mariners

- October RBRA Meeting – Link to sign up for listening session
  - No responses
- Attempted to join Facebook Page “Sausalito Anchorouts (Uncensored)” to post poll to ID effective engagement options
  - Page listed as “dedicated to the anchor outs of Sausalito and all affiliates friend or foe”
  - Request to join sent in November, never approved
  - Sent message to Robbie Powelson requesting approval, brief discussion but still not approved



## Sausalito Anchorouts (uncensored)

Public group · 226 members

You Requested to Join This Group  
You'll be notified if your request to join has been approved.

About Discussion Members Events Media

Cancel Request



### About

a page dedicated to the anchor outs of sausalito and all affiliates friend or foe

**Public**  
Anyone can see who's in the group and what they post.

**Visible**  
Anyone can find this group.

**General Group**

# Targeted Outreach to Mariners – con't

- Scheduled Zoom Listening Sessions targeted for mariner community
  - One session in evening after work hours
  - One session during the day after free lunch at Sausalito Presbyterian
  - Flier Distribution:
    - Posted to RBRA Instagram, posted to personal Facebook page (public), emailed to all mariners available, sent directly to Robbie Powelson and Kim Slater on FB asking for them to post in relevant Facebook pages (not posted)
- No attendees at either Mariner Listening Session
- Provided email address if unavailable for session – no emails

Mariners of Richardson's Bay:  
Provide input on RBRA's Eelgrass  
Protection & Management Plan



Share your knowledge to make sure the  
stakeholder engagement reflects your lived  
experience on Richardson's Bay.

**Stakeholder Listening Sessions**

The Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) is currently developing an Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan (EPMP) to protect eelgrass in Richardson's Bay in compliance with local and state regulations - and we want your input!

The EPMP is in fulfillment of policy direction outlined in RBRA's June 2020 Transition Plan for the anchorage. The plan is looking at opportunities to create "zones" in Richardson's Bay with various degrees of allowable use, to make sure the environment is protected while supporting maritime use of this historic anchorage. Join us on Zoom to share your thoughts on how this can best be achieved.

Two opportunities to join are scheduled so far. More may be added if needed.  
If these times don't work for you, email your thoughts to [eelgrass@coastalpolicy.com](mailto:eelgrass@coastalpolicy.com)

Session 1: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

- Time: 5:30-7:30PM
- Meeting ID: 983 9353 7271
- Passcode: 731626

Session 2: Wednesday, December 9, 2020

- Time: 2:00-3:30PM
- Meeting ID: 917 1483 4533
- Passcode: 030344

Directions to join:

- Go to <http://zoom.us> and click "Join a meeting" at the top. Follow prompts to enter the meeting ID and passcode.

*For more information about RBRA's June 2020 Transition Plan, visit <http://rbra.ca.gov>*

# Summary of Feedback by Theme (1 of 4)

## Threats to Richardson's Bay to consider during EPMP development:

- Sea level rise and other impacts of climate change
- Public safety
- Damage from anchors, chains, and other ground tackle
- Marine debris
- Stormwater runoff/water quality
- Loss of maritime culture (not just liveaboards), including herring/fishing culture
- Shading and other impacts from docks
- Regulatory burdens on marina operators
- Natural fluctuation in eelgrass determining static boundaries
- Lack of awareness about importance of eelgrass to communities

# Summary of Feedback by Theme (2 of 4)

## Uses to consider during EPMP development:

- Richardson's Bay is an anchorage
- Recreation, especially non-motorized
- RB as a sailing destination for cruisers/visiting vessels
- Education
- Marinas
- Science/research
- Eelgrass restoration and bed migration with sea level rise
- Birds and wildlife
- Beneficial reuse of sediment/dredge material
- Opportunities for deeper water off Belvedere/Tiburon

# Summary of Feedback by Theme (3 of 4)

## Additional Feedback (General):

- Vessel enforcement will be key to success
- Partnerships important
- Should include monitoring on ecological scale (10 years+)
- Don't make marina operation harder



# Summary of Feedback by Theme (4 of 4)

## Additional Feedback (Major):

- Keep zones as simple as possible (anchoring/no anchoring, no specific area for legacy boats)
- Mooring program
  - Safer, better for eelgrass
  - Should be considered now rather than a separate planning process down the line
  - Visitor-serving, revenue generating
- Need for spatial analysis, not just spatial planning
  - Current effort is high-level
  - Interest from stakeholders for quantitative rather than qualitative analysis
  - Inclusion of additional data layers beyond eelgrass and depth (e.g., herring spawning, vessel use)
  - Alternatives analysis

# Next Steps

1. Feedback needed from board tonight:
  - Direction re three major concerns (number of zones, mooring, quantitative GIS analysis)
2. Feedback needed from community:
  - Are there members of the mariner community who would like to participate in a stakeholder listening session? If so, please email [eelgrass@coastalpolycysolutions.com](mailto:eelgrass@coastalpolycysolutions.com)
3. Based on the above feedback, we will develop a timeline for finishing this effort.



